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DE RUEHPE #3014 2142217
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 022217Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1665
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3712
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6917
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9699
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AUG QUITO 0580
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0767
RUMIAAA/CDR USCINCSO MIAMI FL

UNCLAS LIMA 003014

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINR PHUM VE PE
SUBJECT: PERUVIANS PRAGMATIC ON CASTRO'S ILLNESS

¶1. (U) Pronouncements by Peru's leaders on the situation in Cuba have been guarded and pragmatic.

--After lamenting Castro's deteriorating health, Peruvian Prime Minister and long-time advisor to President Alan Garcia told Radio Programs of Peru on 8/1 that the international community should prepare itself to assist in a political transition in Cuba to avoid "a civil war." Del Castillo noted that Cubans are divided into "impassioned groups" and that "it is necessary to form a group that can play a role" in assuring a peaceful transition in that country.

--In a similar vein, APRA Congressman and former Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada told Radio Programs of Peru on 8/2 that he did not expect any change in the Cuban Government as the immediate result of Castro's illness and that it was necessary to wait and see how the Cuban leader's health problems would turn out.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: In contrast to many other figures in the region -- some of whom lionized Castro -- the comments so far by ruling APRA Party leaders and officials have been guarded, pragmatic, and oriented toward the need to assure a peaceful succession. President Garcia has yet to offer a public opinion on Castro's situation. End Comment.

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